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NOTE TO THE PAPER OF LIEUT. NEWBOLD,

Page 78.

Extract of a Letter from SIR JOHN HERSCHEL to LIEUT. NEWBOLD,

"It is a phenomenon I have long wished for information upon; as, after reading what Grey and Seetzen have said about it, it seemed involved in great mystery. Your account of it throws on it the only ray of elucidation I have yet seen, in the festoon or ripply waves of the sand. These I conceive (with the wind sweeping over them, and partially obstructed by them) to be, not a consequence of the musical tone, but a cause of it; the regularity (though rude) of the ripple causing alternations in the density of the air analogous to those which obtain in series of sound-waves. Possibly, also, the heated state of the particles mixed up with the air may have an influence, as no similar tone is heard when wind sweeps over a ripple-marked wet sea beach."